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SOME DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

BY H. D. BARROWS.

(Read November 1, 1908.)

Among the active members of our Society who have passed away may be mentioned: Jonathan J. Warner, Noah Levering, General and ex-Governor John Mansfield, Prof. Ira More, Don Antonio F. Coronel, Dr. Wm. F. Edgar, George Hansen and Colonel James J. Ayers.

Stephen C. Foster, although not actually a member, contributed several very valuable papers to the Society.

On this, our twenty-fifth anniversary, it may be of interest to surviving members to recall some salient characteristics of our departed brothers.

Col. Warner, one of the founders of the Historical Society and its first President, was also one of the earliest American Pioneers of California. He arrived in Los Angeles in 1831. Although the honor of first publicly urging the building of a railroad to the Pacific was attributed to Stephen Whitney, that honor of right should belong to Col. Warner, who in 1840 or '41 visited the Atlantic States and delivered a lecture at Rochester, N. Y., in which he strongly took grounds in favor of that great national enterprise.

In 1844 Col. Warner was the grantee of the Rancho *Agua Caliente*, in San Diego county, in after years widely known as "Warner's Ranch." In '46 he was the confidential agent of Consul Larkin for the United States. He was State Senator from San Diego county in 1851-'52, and a member of the Assembly from Los Angeles in 1860. He settled in Los Angeles in 1857. He died April 11, 1895.

Don Antonio F. Coronel, one of the original members of our Society, was born in the City of Mexico in 1817; he came to California with his father's family and with the "Padres' Colonia" in 1834. Being well educated, he became and remained till the last years of his life a prominent and useful citizen of Los Angeles.

In 1848-'49 Mr. Coronel was a member of the Board of Magistrates having in charge the regulation of irrigation. With this (to Californians) very important question, which was new to Americans, he was both theoretically and practically familiar, and his knowledge and advice have been of inestimable value to the people, especially of Southern California.

Mr. Coronel made a most honorable record as a friend of the defenseless Mission Indians. In 1853 he was elected Mayor of Los Angeles; he served several terms as a City Councilman; and in 1866 he was elected Treasurer of the State of California for four years. His large and very valuable collection of historical materials relating to this section and to this coast, was bequeathed to this city. Mr. Coronel died in 1894.

Dr. Wm. F. Edgar, a graduate of the University of Louisville, Ky., in 1848, was commissioned as Assistant Surgeon in the army in 1849. He was assigned to a regiment of Mounted Rifles, which was ordered to Oregon, where it arrived in July, 1850. Thereafter Dr. Edgar's service in the army was mostly in California, till the commencement of the Civil War, when he was ordered East.

After serving some time with the Army of the Potomac, Dr. Edgar was ordered to Buell's command in Kentucky, where he soon was engaged in organizing a large general hospital. From there he was assigned to the very responsible and onerous position of Medical Director at Cairo, where his health gave way, when he was ordered before a retiring board in Washington. Later, and after recovering from a severe surgical operation, he was assigned to duty in the Medical Director's office in the Department of the East, and a part of the time he was a member of the board which organized the Signal Corps in Washington.

At the close of the war he was assigned to the duty of disposing of the effects of the general hospital of that department. After this he was again ordered to the Pacific Coast and was stationed at Drumm Barracks, Los Angeles county, in 1866, where he remained three years. Being then relieved from military duty, he retired to his ranch at San Geronio, San Bernardino county. After two or three years, his health improving, he came to Los Angeles, where he made his home till his death, which occurred August 23, 1897, at the age of 73 years.

Dr. Edgar is survived by Mrs. Edgar, to whom he was married in 1865.

During his residence in Southern California of over thirty years, mostly at Los Angeles, Dr. Edgar won the respect and genuine friendship of all who knew him well. He was a good friend and an active and enthusiastic member of our Society. He bequeathed the Society \$5000, which, according to the terms of his will, it will receive after the death of his widow.

GEN. JOHN MANSFIELD.

Gen. Mansfield, a charter member of the Historical Society, came to Los Angeles in 1875. He was a native of New York. In the Civil War he was Colonel of a regiment which, before he had com-

mand of it, lost more men than any other in the war. At the Battle of Gettysburg his regiment was the first to be ordered into action. He was twice wounded, the second time so severely that he was left on the field for dead. In 1879 he was a member of the California State Convention, and under the Constitution then adopted he was elected the first Lieutenant-Governor under that instrument. Governor Mansfield died May 6, 1896.

Mrs. Mansfield is still a resident of this city.

COL. GEO. BUTLER GRIFFIN.

In the 1887 publication of the Historical Society, Col. Griffin contributed a valuable paper on the *Spanish India Code—a Recopilacion de Indias*, and other collections of Spanish laws relating to the Indies, compiled by Spanish authorities during the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. These laws have a present local interest, because they are still in force in some modified form in California. This comprehensive paper by Col. Griffin is printed in Volume I, pages 36-45, of the Historical Society's publications, which may be found in the Public Library.

In 1891 Mr. Adolph Sutro of San Francisco presented to the Historical Society for publication a considerable number of documents relating to the history of California, which he had discovered in that great magazine of Spanish-American history, the India Archives of Seville, Spain. Col. Griffin, who was a very accomplished scholar, translated these documents and they were printed in both Spanish and English, and they constituted the entire second volume of the Society's publications.

Col. Griffin was employed as a historical writer and Spanish translator by Mr. H. H. Bancroft in the production of his monumental *Western American History*, from 1877 to 1880.

Col. Griffin had a very varied experience, which is recounted in the *Illustrated Los Angeles County History*, 1889, in the Public Library.

Col. Griffin was President of the Historical Society in 1891, and a life member. He died several years ago.

One of the founders of the Society was Prof. Marcus Baker, of Washington, D. C., who was stationed here by the Government, in charge of the laboratory established at the Normal School buildings in the '90s, for the purpose of determining the local variations of the magnetic needle.

GEORGE HANSEN.

George Hansen, one of the founders of our Historical Society, was a native of Fiume, Austria, born in 1824. He came to California, via Cape Horn, in 1850, and to Los Angeles in 1853. He died in this city in 1897.

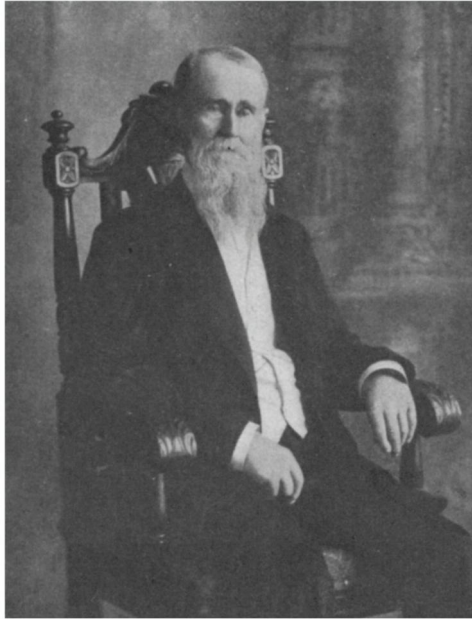
Mr. Hansen was an eminent civil engineer. He projected and planted in 1857 the vineyard town of Anaheim, the Pioneer Colony of the Pacific Coast, which has served as a model which many other prosperous colonies have followed more or less closely. During his long and useful life in California, Mr. Hansen made many important land surveys. He was a linguist, a scholar and a philosopher, and withal he was a man of sound, practical judgment.

PROF. IRA MORE.

Prof. Ira More, first Principal of the State Normal School, was a native of Maine, born in 1829. Prof. More graduated in the Scientific Department of Yale College in 1855. He was a teacher in the Chicago High School in 1856, becoming Principal later of the City Normal School.

In 1861 he enlisted in the Thirty-third Regiment Illinois Infantry, and saw three years of hard service, including the long siege of Vicksburg. Resigning his Captaincy in 1864, broken in health by the malaria of Western Louisiana bayous, he went to Minnesota, where in 1865 he was elected Professor of Mathematics in the University of Minnesota.

Coming to San Diego in 1875, he was appointed principal of the city public schools. In 1883 he became Principal of the State Normal School at Los Angeles, where for several years he taught with great success. Of the thirty-odd years of Prof. More's life as a teacher, over twenty-five years were devoted to Normal School work.



HENRY DWIGHT BARROWS

PIONEER OF 1854

ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Member Board of Directors 1883 to date.

Vice-President 1883-1886.

President 1888-1889.